

Smoking meats, hearth cooking, and candle making to be featured at Dover, Del.'s John Dickinson Plantation in September 2014

-Listing of plantation events through December 2014 also included-

During the month of September, Dover, Del.'s John Dickinson Plantation will present seven special programs that explore different aspects of everyday life as it would have been lived during the 18th century when John Dickinson was in residence at the property. Admission is free. For additional information, call 302-739-3277.



Historic-site interpreters outside the John Dickinson Plantation's smokehouse. Visitors will learn how to preserve meats during the "Smoked, Pickled and Salted for Survival" program on Sept. 27.

On Saturday, Sept. 27, the plantation will feature two programs. Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., "[Arts in the Estuary](#)," a partnership with the [St. Jones Reserve](#), will celebrate National Estuaries Day from the artistic viewpoint including the work of artisans, performers and authors. Between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., the plantation will present "Smoked, Pickled and Salted for Survival," a program in which visitors will learn how smoked, pickled and salted meats helped stretch food reserves in the winter. Visitors will also participate in pickling meats with brine and smoking meats in the property's smokehouse. On Saturday, Sept. 20, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., the site will present a hands-on workshop exploring hearth cooking; while on Thursdays, Sept. 11, 18 and 25, between 11 a.m. and 2:30 p.m., the plantation will present "Taper Thursdays," hands-on programs in which visitors will learn to make their own candles and help the plantation dip 200 candles that John Dickinson would have required from his tenants as part of their leases.



Martha Wagner, historic-site interpreter at the John Dickinson Plantation, conducting a hearth-cooking demonstration.

The [John Dickinson Plantation](#) was the boyhood home and country estate of John Dickinson, one of the founding fathers of the United States, signer of the U.S. Constitution and "Penman of the Revolution." The plantation features Dickinson's original

1740 brick home, reconstructed farm buildings and a log'd dwelling, surrounded by rich agricultural lands stretching down to the banks of the St. Jones River. Following is a schedule of plantation events through December 2014. All programs take place at the John Dickinson Plantation, 340 Kitts Hummock Road, Dover, Del. The property is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Times for special programs are indicated. Admission is free for all events listed. For additional information, call 302-739-3277.

John Dickinson Plantation special events through December 2014

Ongoing

[“Simple Machines.”](#) Exhibit demonstrating the six “simple machines”—incline ramp, screw, wedge, pulley, lever and wheel—that constitute the elementary building blocks of which many more-complicated machines are composed.

Thursdays, Sept. 11, 18 and 25, 2014

“Taper Thursdays.” Learn to make your own candle and help the plantation dip 200 candles that John Dickinson would have required from his tenants as part of their leases. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Saturdays, Sept. 13, Nov. 8 and Dec. 13, 2014

Demonstrations by the Thistledown Fiber Arts Guild. Program explores spinning, weaving, knitting and other fabric arts. 1–3 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 20, 2014

“Hearth Cooking Basics.” Hands-on workshop. 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014

[“Arts in the Estuary.”](#) Celebrate National Estuaries Day from the artistic viewpoint including the work of artisans, performers and authors. Partnership with the [St. Jones Reserve](#). 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Saturday Sept. 27, 2014

"Smoked, Pickled and Salted for Survival." Learn how smoked, pickled and salted meats helped stretch food reserves in the winter, and participate in pickling meats with brine and smoking meats in the plantation's smokehouse. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 11, 2014

"A Day in the Life of the John Dickinson Plantation." Visitors of all ages will enjoy a day of music, food, entertainment and hands-on activities from Colonial trades to hearth cooking in the 18th-century setting of the home of the "Penman of the Revolution." The featured performers will be the Swordmasters demonstrating Colonial muskets and rifles, and giving fencing presentations. 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 24, 2014

"Lantern Tours of the Plantation." Programs explore the parties, games, dances and entertainment that would have abounded at the plantation during the nighttime in the 18th century. Activities will also include wagon-ride guided-tours conducted by staff of the St. Jones Reserve exploring the nocturnal life of the estuary. Programs 6–7 p.m. and 7:30–8:30 p.m. Free admission but, due to space restrictions, reservations are required by calling 302-739-3277.

Saturday, Oct. 25, 2014

"An 18th-Century Sweet Tooth." Hands-on workshop in which visitors can learn how to create 18th-century sweets and goodies. 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Thursdays, Nov. 6, 13 and 20, 2014

John Dickinson's Birthday Month. Visitors celebrate the birth of John Dickinson by helping to make a great cake and decorate it using royal icing and shaped marzipan. 11 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014

Candle-making workshops. Bayberry-candle workshop from 10 a.m.–noon examines bayberries and their use in creating bayberry candles. Presented in partnership with the St. Jones Reserve. Reservations required by calling the St. Jones Reserve at 302-739-3436. “Light Me Up!” workshop on candle dipping and discussion of lighting devices of the 18th century from 1–3 p.m. Reservations required by calling 302-739-3277 no later than Nov. 14.



Hand-dipped candles at the John Dickinson Plantation. Candle-making workshops will be offered on Nov. 15, 2014.

Saturday, Nov. 29, 2014

“Handmade for the Holidays.” Seasonal program in which visitors can learn to create and decorate cards through the art of paper quilling and stenciling, and write a personal note with a quill pen. 11–2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2014

“Handmade for the Holidays.” Seasonal program in which visitors can create a sachet with herbs and spices. 11–2:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20, 2014

“Handmade for the Holidays.” Seasonal program in which visitors can create a plaster ornament. 11–2:30 p.m.

-End-

Contact:

Jim Yurasek Delaware

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs

Phone: 302-736-7413

E-mail: Jim.Yurasek@delaware.gov

Web: <http://history.delaware.gov>